



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### Fish and Wildlife Service

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#### RECORD BUDGET PROPOSED FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTAINS MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR WILDLIFE

John Turner, Director of the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, today praised the Administration's fiscal year 1992 budget of a record \$1,129.0 million for wildlife conservation and management activities conducted by that agency. The total budget is a 21 percent increase above the budget proposed for the agency last year. Turner said, "This budget demonstrates again this Administration's support for the environment and this Nation's wildlife resources."

Of this funding, \$182.8 million is part of President Bush's major environmental initiative entitled "America the Beautiful." This program would earmark \$50.4 million for endangered species activities such as listing, consultation, recovery efforts, and delisting. Another \$50.2 million will be directed toward the restoration and enhancement of vital wetland areas, as well as associated activities such as research.

A significant new effort concerning the conservation and management of coastal areas, entitled "Coastal America," is to receive \$3.2 million under the budget proposal. In addition, the Service would receive a total of approximately \$62 million for land acquisition, mainly for additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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The 1992 estimate for the Service's principal operating account, Resource Management, is \$517.1 million, or \$43.4 million above the 1991 enacted funding level. In addition to increases of \$22.3 million for endangered species and wetlands work under the "America the Beautiful" program, an increase of \$0.5 million is included for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for hydropower relicensing. Another \$1.0 million is requested for a comprehensive update of the Service's contaminant monitoring program and to fully integrate the latest technology in bioassessment methodology.

Other highlights of the funding proposal include \$0.6 million for "Watchable Wildlife," a new cooperative program with the states aimed at increasing opportunities for the public to observe wildlife; and \$0.9 million for environmental education activities to enhance the general public's understanding and appreciation of America's wildlife heritage.

Under the fisheries heading, the budget proposes \$1.2 million for anadromous fish and inland/Great Lakes fisheries operations. Another \$1.0 million is proposed to implement a new recreational fish policy.

In the Research and Development area, there are increases totalling \$1.5 million for research, including work on nongame birds, biodiversity, the Great Lakes fisheries, and global change. A decrease of \$4.8 million reflected in this category is a result of 1991 project completions and limited participation in continuing projects.

The proposal also contains full funding of \$18.7 million for the National Wildlife Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund for the first time since 1980. This would enable the Service to fully recompense counties and other jurisdictions for their loss of tax revenues from Service lands.

Finally, under the General Administration activity, increases totalling \$2.2 million are requested for various management initiatives including health and safety programs; training; and programs for women, minorities, and disabled persons.